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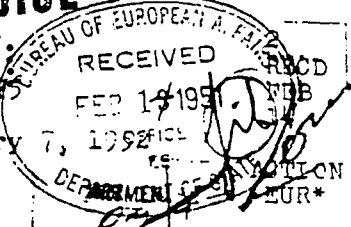
From: ATHENS

To : Department of State

February 7, 1952

Ref :

Subj: Peripheral: Internal Situation in Albania As Of End of 1951



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The following report on internal political, economic, and military conditions within Albania, dated January 1, 1952, was made available to the Embassy in Athens by [redacted]

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A. Internal Political Situation

Nothing special except the mild governmental reshuffle at the end of last November (dismissal of Minister of Mining Affairs Zenel Memiti, replaced by Shefqet Peci, former Minister of Communications, who, in his turn, was replaced in the latter office by Milo Qirko).

B. Economic Situation

During the month of December discussions were held by all the organizations concerned on the initial figures mentioned by Enver Hoxha in his significant speech on the Five-Year Plan. Such figures are still under consideration so that workers and peasants, by participating in the discussions, may get the impression of contributing not only to the execution of the Plan but also to its formation.

C. Military Situation

It has not been possible to gather any interesting news. The sole observation which may be made relates to the good personal equipment of the troops stationed at Tirana and to the issuance of a new, well-made uniform, probably like that used by the Russian police of the Czarist era: at least this is the theory of [redacted]

(It could be, then, that these are a surplus from Czarist military stores, which for obvious reasons, cannot be used in USGR.)

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D. Press and Propaganda

The press has published an extensive summary of the Note presented to the French Legation regarding the revision of the Treaty of Peace with Italy.

Also, Radio Tirana has broadcast a summary of this note in its Italian language editions. (1915 and 2115 hours, wave length 33.20).

It may be that the press as well as the radio services have always harped on the theme of the "appetites" of Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia at the expense of Albania. This line is misused almost without interruption because it impresses upon the Albanian people the fact that it is contrary to any idea whatever of occupation or partition of the country by any of the three above-mentioned nations.

Another line misused during December by the Albanian propaganda against Imperialism has been on the discussions in the United Nations General Assembly of questions outlined in the agenda of the day of the Sixth Ordinary Session in response to Vishinsky's letter of November 22 regarding aggressive activity and interference of the United States of America in the internal affairs of the USSR and the satellite countries.

E. Relations With Italy and the Italian People

Recently two [] were granted liberty: Engineer Aldo Bozzi and the former Vice-Director of the National Bank of Albania (Valona Branch) Accountant Ugo Belluzzi. It appears that the granting of freedom to these two may be the result of certain clemency measures adopted on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Labor Party.

It is reported, however, that Engineer Bozzi has been newly arrested.

F. Conclusions

This December has been, from the viewpoint of internal events, a rather calm month as compared with the preceding months of October and November, during which there was much general activity on account of the great celebrations on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Labor Party and the numerous inaugurations of important public works.

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From the standpoint of international relations, however, the question [] has caused a discreet cooling in Government circles which see vanishing the last hopes they nourished for realization of the advantages which could have come to Albania in a literal application of this Treaty.

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Robert B. Memminger
Counselor of Embassy

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